through its CAD/CAM centres, Tool Rooms, Product-cum-Process Development Centres, Technology Resource Centres, Sub Contracting Exchanges, National level Entrepreneurship Training Institutes, training one-commerce and the Small Enterprises Information and Resource Centre Network (SENET) programme, which includes a comprehensive knowledge portal for SSIs.

Uniform sugarcane price

*267. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not having uniform sugarcane price all over the country as sugarcane itself is a major cost input in manufacturing sugar; and

(b) if not, the administrative difficulties in doing so?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, the Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for each sugar season (October—September) payable by the sugar factories to the sugarcane growers. The basic SMP linked to 8.5% recovery is uniform. For every 0.1% point increase in recovery above 8.5%, the rate of premium is also uniform. However, the SMP payable by the sugar factories varies from factory to factory depending upon the recovery level.

FBI Director's Delhi Visit

*268. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the Home Minister's US visit, the Director Investigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigations of the US, Mr. Robert S. Mueller visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the nature and extent of cooperation to fight terrorism expected to be extended by the FBI?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Mr. Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States visited New Delhi on 21—22 January, 2002.

(b) and (c) The visit was part of the ongoing cooperation between India and the United States in counter-terrorism, including in the context of the attack on Parliament on 13th December. The two sides discussed all aspects of the global campaign against terrorism. They agreed to further strengthen and streamline sharing of information and cooperation in terrorism-related investigations between the agencies of the two countries. They also expressed hope for early ratification of the bilateral Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. In addition to cooperation in investigations and information exchange, FBI is sharing its expertise with Indian officials in protective, preventive and investigative aspects of counter-terrorism efforts.

Allotment of rice at BPL rates

*269. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allot five kg. rice per head per month at BPL rates in addition to the States BPL Quota to destitute children, schools for physically handicapped, old age houses and other related institutions sponsored by the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to allocate 6000 MT rice at the BPL rates; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?